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cont.

an electronic data card that follows the container through at least a portion of the manufacturing process, said electronic data card including a microcomputer and containing data related to one or more of the manufacturing process and related equipment; and,

at least one light emitter associated with the electronic data card and operable in response to a set of instructions executed by said microcomputer to visually convey predetermined information directly to a human operator about one or more of the manufacturing process and related equipment.

A2

7. (AMENDED) An electronic data card for storing predetermined manufacturing process and related equipment information, said electronic data card including a microcomputer, an alphanumeric display and operator interface buttons for operator retrieval of stored manufacturing process and related equipment information, the improvement comprising:

at least one light emitting diode conditionally illuminated in accordance with a set of instructions executed by the microcomputer to perform at least one conditional check upon at least one of said stored manufacturing process and related equipment information, wherein the result of said at least one conditional check is visually conveyed for viewing by a human operator by the illumination condition of said at least one light emitting diode.

11. (AMENDED) A method of visually conveying critical information associated with a production lot of work in progress wafers in a microchip fabrication process comprising the steps:

providing an electronic data card capable of storing information, executing a set of instructions, and having at least one controllably illuminated LED;

A³ associating said electronic data card with said production lot throughout at least a portion of the fabrication process;

storing predetermined information corresponding to the production lot on said data card;

providing the electronic data card with a set of executable instructions for performing conditional checks on said predetermined information; and,

controlling the illumination of said at least one LED in a predetermined manner in accordance with results of said conditional checks on said predetermined information, whereby the manner in which the LED is illuminated visually conveys critical information associated with said production lot related to said predetermined information directly to a human operator.

BACKGROUND

Claims 1 through 13 are pending in the application. The Office Action Summary indicates that claims 1-13 are rejected. The Detailed Action reads that claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,570,990 to Bonora et al. (hereafter Bonora) but sets forth various arguments for anticipation of claims 1-13 by Bonora.

Applicant assumes that the detailed action contains a typographical error identifying only claims 1-3 as being rejected under 35 USC 102(b), and further assumes that the Examiner intended the Detailed Action to comport with the Office Action Summary which reads that claims 1-13 are rejected. Therefore, the amendments and remarks contained herein are